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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION:
FIRST UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY

United Republic of Tanzania*: draft resolution

First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/183 of 21 December 1993, 49/110 of 19 December 1994, 50/107 of 20 December 1995 and 51/178 of 16 December 1996, related to the observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty (1996), and in which it proclaims the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, and all its other relevant resolutions relating to international cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries,

Recalling also all declarations and programmes of action of the United Nations major conferences and summits organized since 1990 and the reports and publications on the outcomes of those conferences and summits as they relate to poverty eradication,

Taking note of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the Nineteenth Special Session of the General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21,[1] the Report on the

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] A/S-19/29.

World Social Situation, 1997,[2] the Human Development Report, 1997[3] and the Trade and Development Report, 1997,[4]

Expressing its concern that, as underlined in the reports mentioned above, the number of people living in absolute poverty is still increasing, especially in developing countries, and that a majority of them are women,

Noting decisions, measures and activities undertaken to eradicate poverty by countries and by organizations, agencies, funds, programmes and bodies of the United Nations system, including the World Bank, and by non-governmental organizations and the entire civil society within the framework of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty and the first year of the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty,

1. Reiterates that the main objective of the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty is to achieve the goal of eradicating absolute poverty and reducing overall poverty substantially in the world through decisive national actions and international cooperation in implementing fully and effectively the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations and all agreements and commitments agreed upon at the United Nations major conferences and summits organized since 1990 as they relate to poverty eradication;

2. Reaffirms that the causes of poverty should be addressed in the context of sectoral strategies, such as those on environment, food security, population, migration, health, shelter, human resources development, fresh water, including clean water and sanitation, rural development and productive employment, and of the specific needs of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, in such a way as to aim at the social and economic integration of people living in poverty;

3. Reaffirms also that, within the context of overall action for the eradication of poverty, special attention should be given to the multidimensional nature of poverty, to the national and international framework conditions and policies that are conducive to its eradication, to the promotion of an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective and to the utilization of gender analysis as a tool for the integration of a gender dimension into the planning and implementation of policies, strategies and programmes on poverty eradication;

4. Emphasizes that, in developing countries, rural development remains central to poverty eradication efforts, and this often includes agrarian reform, investment in infrastructure, extension of rural financial intermediation ensuring food security, better education and greater utilization of appropriate technology, ensuring fair prices to provide incentives for agricultural

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[2] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.1.

[3] New York, Oxford University Press, 1997.

[4] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.II.D.8.

investment, and increasing productivity, including productivity in the informal sector;

5. Emphasizes also the need to pursue efforts to eradicate poverty in the urban areas in all countries;

6. Decides that every year the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (17 October) should be marked by concentrating on the themes that the General Assembly chooses for that year;

7. Reiterates that all Governments shall formulate or strengthen integrated poverty eradication strategies and policies and implement national poverty eradication plans or programmes in a participatory manner, so as to address the structural causes of poverty, encompassing action on the local, national, subregional, regional and international levels;

8. Reaffirms, that developed countries should, as soon as possible, strive for the fulfilment of the agreed target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for overal. official development assistance and, where agreed, within that target, earmark 0.15-0.20 per cent of gross national product for the least developed countries;

9. Expresses concern that the debt and debt-servicing problems of developing countries continue to impede efforts to eradicate poverty and, in this context, notes that the initiative on the heavily indebted poor countries is valuable but, even when fully operational, will leave untouched much of the debt of severely indebted low-income countries, and calls upon the international community, including multilateral financial institutions, to take further major initiatives on debt cancellation and/or alleviation and to implement fully and effectively all initiatives taken that will contribute to a durable solution of the debt problems of developing countries, in particular African countries and the least developed countries, and thus support their efforts to eradicate poverty;

10. Takes note of the Declaration and Plan of Action adopted by the Microcredit Summit held in Washington, D.C., in February 1997, and calls upon all Governments, the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions and the relevant non-governmental organizations and other actors of civil society, to contribute fully to the implementation of the outcome of that Summit and to support the development, management and assessment of microcredit programmes in developing countries, particularly in African countries and the least developed countries;

11. Invites the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to extend projects under the rubric "poverty strategies initiative" to all developing countries in order to make the initiative closely geared to the poverty eradication goals of the commitments adopted at the World Summit for

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[5] A/52/113, annex.

Social Development[4] and to strengthen assistance in the elaboration of national plans, programmes and strategies to eradicate poverty, particularly in African countries and the least developed countries;

12. Calls upon all donors to give high priority to the eradication of poverty in their assistance budgets and programmes, on either a bilateral or multilateral basis, and also invites the relevant funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system to support developing countries, particularly African countries and the least developed countries, in their efforts to achieve the overall goal of eradicating poverty and ensuring basic social services, by supporting national efforts to formulate, coordinate, implement, monitor and assess integrated poverty strategies, including capacity-building, and by supporting efforts to empower people living in poverty;

13. Requests the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-third session on progress made in the implementation of measures, themes, recommendations and activities related to the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, including recommendations for possible actions and initiatives for the rest of the Decade;

14. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session an item entitled "Implementation of the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)".

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[4] See Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.C.